

For Immediate Release August 24, 2005

## Senator Sikkema Issues Statement on Budget Negotiations

Contact: Ari B. Adler

517-373-5886

**Lansing** - Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming, issued the following statement today regarding budget negotiations:

"I am concerned about the status of budget negotiations - particularly the slow pace at which they are proceeding. The clock is rapidly ticking away toward Oct. 1. I have proposed a schedule for decisions in our budget target meetings that would allow the Senate and House to complete their work on the budget and present it to the governor by late September.

"I am encouraged that we're meeting again tomorrow at 9 a.m., but the pace of negotiations must quicken. We have a responsibility to make some tough decisions. We may not like the decisions we have to make and we may not like every outcome in every department's budget. But I believe all the issues can be resolved if the people around the negotiating table are willing to be realistic."

###